

Tips for Commenting at a Public Hearing or in Response to a Public Notice

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Waste Management posts Public Notices and conducts Public Hearings in accordance with NAC 444.641 through 444.6425. Once a determination has been made the facility has submitted all the required regulatory information, the documents are presented to the public for review and comment. During the Public Comment period the NDEP attempts to gather relevant comment from the local community to assist in permitting a given facility.

To assist the public in submitting relevant comments, the NDEP is providing this short list of tips. The NDEP has no authority to merely “not permit” a site if the applicant has met all of the regulatory criteria in the permitting review process. Therefore it is important to provide relevant comments on the application so those concerns from local communities can be incorporated into the permitting process.

If providing written comments, please make your comment specific to the project and or specific to an area of concern within the project. Emphasize the most important part and summarize your major concern. If providing oral comments please make your oral comments as a summary of your major concerns, emphasizing and explaining the most important points. If you have them written, and are attending a public hearing bring them and submit them as well at the hearing. The NDEP is required to consider all comments whether written or oral but is constrained to address these comments within the context of the regulations.

The following are Guidelines you may use to make the most of your input when submitting a Comment Letter on a Public Notice;

- 1 State your name (or you may remain anonymous) and any special relationship/expertise you bring to the subject. (local resident, worked in a similar field, grew up in the area, have read news reports on XXYY facility or landfills etc. etc.)
- 2 If you're affiliated with a group; introduce your group, in a sentence or two, say your group's name and purpose.
- 3 State your comments and/or concerns , sate the problem as you see it from your perspective. Talk about the project specifically.

For example:

- a. I believe the XXYY Project will impact the groundwater for the following reasons.
- b. XXYY Project is an environmental problem because...
- c. The local community will be impacted because...
- d. XXYY Project failed to comply with a specific regulation(s) as follows...
- 4 Etc etc
- 5 State the Solution: This is your opportunity to provide alternatives for the site or specific provisions that you believe should be included in the application or permit.
 - a. What would you suggest as a solution...

The following are Guidelines you may use to make the most of your input when attending a Public Hearing or Venue;

1. Introduce yourself: Say your name and what special relationship/expertise you bring to the subject. (local resident, worked in a similar field, grew up in the area, have read news reports on XXYY facility or landfills etc. etc.)
2. Introduce your group: If you're affiliated with a group, in a sentence or two, say your group's name and purpose.

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3. State your comments and/or concerns State the problem as you see it from your perspective. Talk about the project specifically

For example:

- a. I believe the XYYY Project will impact the groundwater for the following reasons.
 - b. XYYY Project is an environmental problem because...
 - c. The local community will be impacted because...
 - d. XYYY Project failed to comply with a specific regulation(s) as follows...
 - e. Etc etc
4. State the Solution: This is your opportunity to provide alternatives for the site or specific provisions that you believe should be included in the application or permit.
 - a. What would you suggest as a solution...

